

## **IN THE CLAIMS**

This is a complete and current listing of the claims, marked with status identifiers in parentheses. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

### **CLAIMS**

1. (Canceled)
2. (Previously Presented) A fuel-cell separator which is interposed between a plurality of electrolyte assemblies each constructed of an electrolyte layer containing an electrolyte medium and a catalytic electrode disposed on a surface in a thickness-wise direction of the electrolyte layer, the separator comprising:
  - a separating section for achieving separation between a fuel gas channel and an oxidizer gas channel; and
  - a sealing section disposed along an outer periphery of the separator, for preventing leakage of fuel gas and oxidizer gas,
  - wherein the separating section is composed of a flat metal sheet serving as a core member, and a resin layer formed on a surface of the flat metal sheet,
  - the resin layer is provided with the channel,
  - the sealing section is composed of a metal sheet and a rubber layer formed on a surface of the metal sheet, and provided with a sealing projection extending in parallel with a surface of the electrolyte assembly on which a catalytic electrode is formed, the sealing section having a vertex which is constituted so as to be brought into pressure-contact with the electrolyte assembly under a resilient force,

the sealing projection has a U-shaped or V-shaped sectional profile when viewed in a direction perpendicular to a direction in which the fuel gas and the oxidizer gas flow, and the sealing section is formed in a manner such that, when the fuel cell is in its yet-to-be assembled condition, the vertex of the sealing projection extends beyond a position of contact with the electrolyte assembly in contrast to a case where the fuel cell is in its assembled condition.

3. (Previously Presented) The fuel-cell separator of claim 2, wherein on a surface of the resin layer is formed a high conductive layer having higher electrical conductivity than electrical conductivity of the resin layer.

4. (Previously Presented) The fuel-cell separator of claim 3, wherein the high conductive layer is formed at least in a region of the resin layer which is in contact with the electrolyte assembly.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) A fuel-cell separator which is interposed between a plurality of electrolyte assemblies each constructed of an electrolyte layer containing an electrolyte medium and a catalytic electrode disposed on a surface in a thickness-wise direction of the electrolyte layer, the separator comprising:

a separating section for achieving separation between a fuel gas channel and an oxidizer gas channel; and

a sealing section disposed along an outer periphery of the separator, for preventing leakage of fuel gas and oxidizer gas,

wherein the separating section is composed of a flat metal sheet serving as a core member, and a resin layer and a high conductive layer having higher conductivity than conductivity of the resin layer, which are formed on a surface of the flat metal sheet,

the high conductive layer is provided with the channel,

the sealing section is composed of a metal sheet and a rubber layer formed on a surface of the metal sheet, and provided with a sealing projection extending in parallel with a surface of the electrolyte assembly on which a catalytic electrode is formed, the sealing section having a vertex which is constituted so as to be brought into pressure-contact with the electrolyte assembly under a resilient force,

the sealing projection has a U-shaped or V-shaped sectional profile when viewed in a direction perpendicular to a direction in which the fuel gas and the oxidizer gas flow, and

the sealing section is formed in a manner such that, when the fuel cell is in its yet-to-be assembled condition, the vertex of the sealing projection extends beyond a position of contact with the electrolyte assembly in contrast to a case where the fuel cell is in its assembled condition.

7. (Previously Presented) The fuel-cell separator of claim 6, wherein the high conductive layer is a thin film formed of carbon, the high conductive layer being formed through spraying of a dispersion of carbon particles.

8. (Previously Presented) The fuel-cell separator of claim 1, wherein the metal sheet is covered with a covering layer.

9. (Previously Presented) The fuel-cell separator of claim 8, wherein the covering layer is formed on the metal sheet surface via an adhesive layer.

10. (Previously Presented) The fuel-cell separator of claim 9, wherein the adhesive layer is formed of triazinethiol or polyaniline diffused on the metal sheet surface.

11. (Previously Presented) The fuel-cell separator of claim 8, wherein the covering layer is formed of rubber or synthetic resin having electrical conductivity, and

wherein the electrically conductive ink contains:

a vehicle composed of thermosetting monomer or thermosetting oligomer for forming the rubber or synthetic resin; and

an electrically conductive filler composed of a metal compound or carbon-base material.

12.-32. (Canceled)